



House Paws Home Veterinary Care
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Abscesses

What is an abscess?

An abscess is a pocket of infection that contains pus. These infected areas are surrounded by a membrane, and they appear similar to a thick-walled balloon filled with fluid. Abscesses may be small or large, single or multiple. An abscess in the skin feels hot, appears red and swollen, and is painful.

Abscesses often result from puncture wounds, scratches or bites. Sometimes the skin surface will heal quickly, which traps bacteria below the skin. Abscesses occur because of trapped bacteria.

Instructions

If your pet has an abscess, follow any instructions that our veterinary doctor has checked:

- Keep your pet off the furniture and carpet while the abscess is draining to prevent soiling.
- Keep the buster collar on until the sutures are removed.
- Give antibiotics as directed. Begin them _____.
- Make an appointment for drain removal in _____ days.
- Make an appointment for suture removal in _____ days.
- Try to keep the area clean with hydrogen peroxide.
- Offer food and water this evening, but reduce the portions by half in case your pet gets an upset stomach from sedation.

Notify Us If...

- swelling, redness or heat increases around the abscess.
- your pet's abscess does not heal.
- your pet's general health worsens.